

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): Apparatus for protective guarding, said guarding comprising a number of components joined together to form the guarding structure, at least some of said components joined together using one or more clamping devices and characterized in that the clamping device includes a body portion having a base component location means, therewith securing means for engaging the body portion with the base component and one or more channels for the location of at least one periphery component therewith, said at least one periphery component secured to the clamping device by way of one or more channels, and said [apparatus includes] at least one periphery component is a cover for providing protection to said clamping device and said base component[s] when the two are secured together.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that a number of said channels are provided at spaced intervals on the clamping device such that the one or more periphery components can be located on said clamping device.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 2 characterized in that the provision of a plurality of said channels allows multi-directional clamping of periphery components therewith.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that when a plurality of said channels are provided, the periphery component secured thereto depend radially from the clamping device.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the clamping device is fitted to the base component and the user can choose a channel on the clamping device for the location of a periphery component such that it depends in a radial direction suitable for the user's guarding requirements.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that if the guarding configuration requirements change over time, the user can use more or different channels on the clamping device for the joining of or removal of periphery components with the device, thereby allowing modification of the guarding accordingly.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the channels have at least a first open end.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 7 characterized in that said first open end is an entrance or exit of the channel, shaped to permit the positioning of at least a portion of a periphery component therewith.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 8 characterized in that the entrance or exit of the channel is provided at an angle of approximately 45 degrees relative to the channel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the channels protrude outwardly from the body portion of the clamping device.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the channels are defined within the body portion of the clamping device.

Claim 12 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the channels are joined to the body portion of the clamping device.

Claim 13 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the base component location means is an aperture defined by the body portion with first and second open ends and the base component passes through said open ends and is secured to the body portion.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the base component location means is an aperture defined by the body portion with first and second open ends.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the securing means includes two spaced apart substantially parallel members communicating with the body portion of the device.

Claim 16 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 15 characterized in that a bolt or other means passes through the securing members and tightening of the bolt with a nut brings the two securing members together, thus adjusting the size of the base component location means defined in the body portion for the base component and engaging the same in the clamping device.

Claim 17 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the clamping device includes four channels, each spaced at 90 degrees to adjacent channels.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1 characterized in that the base component is a rod to which periphery components are joined therewith using the clamping device.

Claim 25 (currently amended): Modular guarding apparatus for machinery, said guarding apparatus comprising a number of base components spaced apart and a series of components in the form of panels located between and secured to the base components by clamping devices, said clamping devices including a base component location to allow the same to be engaged with the base component and a series of spaced channels with which said panel components can be selectively engaged, said panel components secured to the clamping device by way of one or more channels, and wherein [said apparatus includes] said panel components include a cover mounted at each of said base components to protect the base and clamping device.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Modular guarding apparatus for machinery according to claim 25 characterized in that the channels on the clamping device are angularly spaced with respect to the base component such that the panel component can be selectively fitted to one of the same to define the angle of the panel component with respect to the base component.

Claim 27 (currently amended): Modular guarding apparatus for machinery according to claim 25 characterized in that a plurality of panel components are attached to the clamping devices.

Claim 28 (currently amended): Apparatus for protective guarding, said guarding comprising a number of components joined together to form the guarding structure, at least some of said components joined together using one or more clamping devices and characterized in that the clamping device includes a body portion having a base component location [means], therewith securing [means for engaging] the body portion with the base component and one or more channels for the location of at least one periphery component therewith, said at least one periphery component secured to the clamping device by way of one or more channels, wherein the channels have at least a first open end, said first open end is an entrance or exit of the channel provided at an angle of approximately 45 degrees relative to the channel to permit the positioning of at least a portion of a periphery component therewith.